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SECURITY INFORMATION

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AD/NE

DATE: 30 November 1951

FROM : R. W. Komer

SUBJECT: Thoughts on the "O/NE-O/CI Relationship."

1. As part of the forthcoming Annual CIA Report, O/NE and O/CI are evidently supposed to get together to prepare a brief on the "Problem of the O/NE-O/CI Relationship". Mr. Hansen from the front office has informed us that this is generally considered to be one of the key problems confronting CIA.

2. I would like to suggest that the front office's evident "concern" over this problem proceeds at least in part from a misconception of the role of O/NE. As I understand it, O/NE has operated from the outset under the explicit injunction that the basis on which NIE's were to be constructed was contributions from the IAC agencies. Only where CIA performed services of common concern (i.e., O/RR, O/SI, Indications) was O/NE to rely primarily on other components of CIA. In fact I believe it was largely State's concern over the way the old ORE functioned as practically a self-contained estimating facility which largely led to the abolition of ORE. Thus, if there is any idea that O/NE should rely directly on O/CI for support in producing national estimates, I suggest that this would not only duplicate the work of the other agencies but largely violate the whole operational concept of O/NE. Various people in OIR at least already regard the steady expansion of O/CI as a violation of the agreements underlying the reorganization last year.

3. This is not to suggest that we should not utilize O/CI more fully, but merely that if we go too far in that direction we will be going back toward the concept of O/RE. Moreover, underlying any reluctance to rely too heavily on O/CI is the feeling on the part of many of us that O/CI (except for the Indications staff) is a rather weak reed. Another factor is that O/CI's preoccupation with the quantity production of its own pieces of paper, plus some perhaps understandable jealousy of O/NE's position, does not make for full receptiveness to O/NE requests. One has the uncomfortable feeling that if we encouraged O/CI to participate more fully in the estimates process they might seek a more independent role than their capabilities would allow. It seems at times that there are already too many outside cooks stirring the NIE pot.

cc: Messrs. Kent
Bundy

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